meeting held in the Y. M. C. A. buildings, Kunnamkulam, a few weeks ago, and that a resolution has been unanimously passed to request the Government to remove all the liquor shops from within Kunnamkulam Town limits, and whether the Government intends to give effect to that resolution, and if not, to give the reason?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Yes. The question is one which comes within the principle of local option, and the feasibility of accepting it in Cochin will be referred to the Excise Committee for consideration and report.

442. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to inform whether any reply has been given by the Government to the representations and petitions submitted by the people of Kunnamkulam for removing all liquor shops from within their Town and to give the reason, if no reply has been sent?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—No reply was given, as it was considered not necessary in view of the answer to question No. 62.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—When a petition is submitted, is it not the policy of the Government to reply?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It depends upon circumstances. Generally it is done.

President.—Is it a fact?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—It is not the practice here but other Governments do it.

President.—Is there any objection in giving a reply to the petitioner that his petition has been lodged or recorded so that he may seek other methods of redress, if his petition is rejected.

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—There is no objection for doing that.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The Government will do so in future, I hope.

Rules now in vogue restricting the sale of liquor.

443. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to inform the rules now in vogue restricting the sale of liquor to definite hours, to particular persons, etc., and the steps taken by the Government for strictly enforcing these rules?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The rules are contained in clause 25 and 30 of the Diwan's Notification, dated 27th Kumbham 1100, a copy of which is placed on the Council

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Secretary's table for reference. The imposition of the penalties laid down in clause 44 of the said notification is the step taken to enforce the rules.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Has the Excise Commissioner given permission to keep open any shop after 9 during the last year?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I had given permission in special cases, but I do not remember all such cases.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know for what special reasons they were given permission.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I must look into the petitions.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know what are the general reasons for keeping shops open after 9?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—They are occasions of festivals, fairs and some other cases also.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is it for the convenience of the people or for the purpose of getting more money to the Government or is it to attract more people to the shop and become addicted to drink?

President.—By this the Government is not profited, but the contractor is the man who is benefited by this.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—He gives the license fees to the Government. If the Excise Commissioner does not give, he won't get permission? In certain places the shops are kept open throughout the night.

Mr. V. B Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—No such instances have come to my notice.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Last year, soon after the Council was over, a Member of the Council, I myself sent in two letters, one to the Excise Commissioner and the other to the Diwan, stating that I was very much bothered by a shop situated near my house. I can see from my study room lights burning in the shop after 9. I did not get a reply from the Excise Commissioner.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Has the Member shown in the complaint petition that the shop was kept open after 9 o' clock?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I am not quite certain. It was a general complaint. The petition to the Diwan was rejected, saying that one rupee Court Fee Stamp is to be affixed.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I also rejected it for want of a stamp.

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Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I think the Excise Commissioner will do the needful. What are the objects for giving occasional licenses for fairs and festivals?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—A large number of people come, and so there is a greater demand for liquor. Unless that demand is properly met, there will be illicit liquor traffic.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—There was a discussion about this matter in the Madras Legislative Council, and the Hon'ble Member in charge stated that no special license was issued for fairs and festivals.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—There is a provision in the Madras Sale Rules empowering Collectors to grant such licenses.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Now, may I point out that some people in Madras tried to get license during the Park-fair, but it was not granted.

President.—That is a different matter.

Applications for jaggery tapping.

444. **Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) The total number of applications for jaggery tapping received between the first and the last day of Karkadagam during the years 1098, 1099 and 1100 and the number of such applications during the first 3 months respectively of 1099, 1100 and 1101?

(b) How many of the 1st set of applicants were given their licenses before the last day of Karkadagam of the year of their applications?

How many of the 2nd set of applicants were given their licenses before the close of the month of their applications? What is the longest and the average delay between the date of the applications and the grant of licenses?

(c) What is the reason for the delay?

(d) How does the Government account for the large number of applications during the last 3 months of the year than those at the end of the previous year?

(e) Is the T. T. application form made available for tappers anywhere than from the Aminadars and Inspectors of the Department?

(f) Is any price realised to the Government by the sale of these T. T. forms?

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